

## Minutes of the Meeting of Hythe and Dibden Parish Council

Held at The Grove, 25 St John's Street, Hythe  
on Wednesday 28th February at 7.00 pm

p Maureen McLean (Chairman)  
p James Binns (Vice Chairman)

### Councillors:

p P Armstrong  
p M Clark  
p E Davey  
p J Fowler  
a C Harrison  
n T Johnson

### Councillors:

p G Parkes  
p D Poole  
p M Short  
p A Wade  
p M Wade

p = present

a = apologies

n = no apologies received

### In Attendance

p Cllr B Andrews (NFDC)  
p Cllr K Crisell (NFDC)  
p Cllr A McEvoy (HCC)

### Officers in attendance

Mrs S Bennett (Clerk to the Council)  
Mr S Spencer (Deputy Clerk to the Council)  
Miss C Donnelly (Minute Clerk)

5 Members of the Public

### 232/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest made and no requests for dispensation received.

### 233/17 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

RESOLVED that

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 be agreed.

**234/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

Hythe Pier Heritage Association's application to register as a Community Benefits Society has been accepted by the Financial Conduct Authority. This gives them a legal structure and status and will allow them to progress the project to save Hythe Pier for the community. Peter King thanked Members and Officers of the Council for their help and support.

New Forest District Council has approached the Parish Council with the offer of a lease for land off Challenger Way. However, due to unprecedented workload, the Parish Council are unable to take on any additional work at this time.

The Chairman read out the letter she received from Cllr Rob Humby in response to her letter regarding the issues at Valleydene. Arrangements will now be made for their Highways Manager, Richard Bastow, to meet with the Clerk to discuss what can be done with the highway drainage.

The Chairman asked that thanks be passed on to the Maintenance Team for their hard work planting the spring bulbs and the attractive displays on the roundabouts.

The Parish Council will observe Commonwealth Day on 12<sup>th</sup> March and will fly the Commonwealth flag.

The Great Waterside Raft Race will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August at Hythe Marina.

New Forest District Council have given notice that St John's Car Park will be de listed from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018

**235/17 CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UPDATE**

PCSO Vicki Pressey sent her apologies as she was unable to attend the meeting for operational reasons. She sent the following report which was read out by the Chairman.

- Joint patrols, with NFDC traffic wardens, have been conducted on the Promenade. This resulted in no tickets being issued and there has been an overall improvement at this location. Joint evening patrols are in the process of being arranged.
- Beat surgeries are continuing to go well in the village centre on market days. These will continue.
- This month during foot patrols in the village a known offender was arrested and has been sent back to HM Prison.
- Another offender, known for shoplifting in the village, has been arrested for breach of his licence conditions and has been sent back to HM Prison.

- The Neighbourhood Policing Team conducted a warrant at a local address in Hythe, to reduce drug related harm. This warrant was positive and the resident was arrested with enquiries ongoing.
- Hythe Neighbourhood Team are working with Trading Standards and the Licencing Department to arrange a local test purchasing operation at licenced premises in the area in the near future.
- Anti Social Behaviour continues to be low across the whole of the Waterside.

## 236/17 **REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Alexis McEvoy reported on Hampshire County Council's 2018/19 Budget. Hampshire has a gross expenditure requirement of £2billion and a budget funding requirement of £750.4million, which is £20million higher than last year. Further savings of £140million are required by 2020. There are 1.32million residents in Hampshire and HCC provide services such as adult social care, children's services and road maintenance. The Highways department receives over 100,000 enquiries per year yet their grant has been cut from £115 to £100 per head, a reduction of over £15million.

Cllr McEvoy compared Hampshire's grant with that of Nottingham and Tower Hamlets and highlighted the discrepancies. She said that if HCC received the same grant as Nottingham, they would receive over £200million more per annum.

Cllr McEvoy reported that the pressures arising from HCC's care budgets were eased by the extra 1% council tax increase the Government authorised for social care, and in the final adjustment of the local government settlement by the Government, almost £3million additional funding was allocated to Hampshire.

Cllr McEvoy reported that the Council Tax increase of 5.99% for a Band D property means Hampshire still has one of the lowest council tax levels of any county in the UK and as a result of council tax being frozen for 5 years from 2010, it will be lower in real terms than it was in 2010 when measured against inflation.

Cllr McEvoy announced that the planned cuts to tips across Hampshire and the planned cuts to school crossing patrols and community transport schemes will no longer go ahead. There will also be no closure of libraries. HCC has committed another £26million to provide 90 more units for adults with learning disabilities and more children's social workers have been budgeted for.

Cllr Malcolm Wade reported on Hampshire County Council's 2018/19 Budget, highlighting the plans to reduce expenditure by £140million by 2019, which in real terms will be a reduction of £120million due to the offset rise in council tax and some one off funding from the government.

Cllr Malcolm Wade said that after voting to shut half the recycling centres, cancel school crossing patrols and cut community transport, the administration has had a rethink and now they are not going to do these by raising the council tax. He stated that the administration will not commit to

maintaining these services going forward and this is therefore only a temporary reprieve.

Cllr Malcolm Wade reported that cuts in adult services will be over £50million, despite a one off payment of £2,971,560, and the impact on the elderly and the vulnerable will be considerable.

Cllr Malcolm Wade said the administration should be lobbying government and campaigning with other local authorities and Hampshire MPs to make the government change its policy of cutting needed local government funding.

### **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Bill Andrews reported that the NFDC Planning Committee Meeting on 14th March will have a delayed start of 10am.

He noted that severe weather is expected and informed Council of a special NFDC webpage which is frequently updated to show affected and additional services.

Cllr Andrews stated that he is continually pushing for a reduction of costs of paper, printing and postage by trialling and promoting the use of electronically based documents.

Cllr Andrews reported that Go New Forest, the replacement for Brand New Forest, does not have an associated app. Therefore it was suggested that users delete the old BNF app from their phones or tablets. The GNF card must be shown for offers to be validated once the card is registered.

Cllr Andrews advised Council of the death of ex-District Councillor, John Hutchins. He served on NFDC from 1983 to 2011 and was twice Chairman of the Council.

Cllr Kate Crisell had nothing to report.

Cllr Peter Armstrong reported that there are twelve tiled roofs left to do at Netley View. The delay was caused by bat and bird issues.

Cllr Armstrong updated Council regarding the question asked at the last Parish Council meeting concerning the land ownership in the Library car park. He confirmed that ownership changed from British Railways Board on 24th September 1971 to the District Council (Title no: HP725150)

Cllr Armstrong reported on the issues of homelessness in the New Forest and stated that the new Government Homelessness Act puts more responsibility on local councils. He was pleased to report that NFDC have acted quickly and as of last week, all 15 homeless people have been found accommodation.

Cllr James Binns reported that NFDC are in talks with Lidl to try and maintain the St John's Car Park site opens as long as possible. The District

Council are looking at introducing a strategy of temporary car parking in New Road, which may require planning permission.

Cllr Binns announced that there will be a 3% Council Tax increase. This year NFDC will spend approximately £84million on continuing to deliver services such as weekly refuse and recycling collection, street cleaning, public toilets, housing, community and leisure facilities, and coastal protection. Money will also be invested in supporting local businesses and economic growth, an example of this is the partnership with Creative England and Film UK which brings approximately £40,000 into the New Forest every day of film/TV shooting.

He said that the housing department will have its budget increased to provide new members of staff to help with the interview process of homeless individuals and the subsequent need to find them shelter. Funding will also be allocated towards a new rough-sleeper strategy with a particular emphasis on mental health and substance abuse issues. Leisure Centres will be protected and will receive £80,000 of new investment in the first quarter of this year, with £35,000 going directly to Applemore. At least £180,000 has been earmarked for community grant use.

Cllr Binns thanked the Clerk for her thorough response to a member of the public's question last month with proved he had not pre-emptively stated the use of public funds before Council agreement.

Cllr Alex Wade reported on changes to the District Council and informed Members that the Conservatives have lost one member, Cllr Richard Frampton of Bransgore, who now sits as an Independent. The District Council now has 56 Conservatives, 2 Liberal Democrats and 1 Independent.

Cllr Alex Wade reported that a Task and Finish Group have agreed the Community Grants for local charities and causes. These include: £10,000 for New Forest Disability Information Service; £4740 for Youth and Families Matter; £3740 for The Handy Trust; £3000 for Families Matter and £28,000 for Fawley Rugby Club. A request for £40,000 for Hythe Sea Scouts was rejected.

Cllr Alex Wade stated that it has been agreed that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England be requested to undertake a review of the electoral arrangements in the New Forest District with a view to reducing the number of members on the Council from 60 to approximately 40. This could lead to savings of £78k per year.

Cllr Dan Poole reported that he has been selected to serve on a Homelessness Task and Finish Group, alongside Cllr Kate Crisell.

#### 237/17 **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no reports submitted.

**238/17 PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no matters raised.

**239/17 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS 25 AND 26**

Cllr Malcolm Wade asked Cllr James Binns to clarify the location where NFDC are considering temporary car parking in New Road. Cllr Binns replied that it would be where the recycling bay is or possibly on the site of the old library, subject to permission being granted.

Cllr Graham Parkes asked Cllr James Binns if there was any chance of using the Lidl site for car parking. Cllr Parkes suggested that there was no point closing the St John's car park if nothing is happening and the land should be kept available for parking for as long as possible. Cllr Binns replied that Colin Read was communicating with Lidl over this.

Cllr Mark Clark asked Cllr McEvoy about her report regarding HCC's 2018/19 budget. He asked what the administration is doing about lobbying to level the funding disparity between principal authorities. Cllr McEvoy replied that Cllr Perry has written to the Prime Minister and assured Cllr Clark that the administration is making representation.

Cllr Eric Davy asked if the Chairman was aware that the recently resurfaced Crete Road and Waterman's Lane is badly breaking up and earmarked for resurfacing again. Cllr Davey asked if the Council could contact HCC regarding quality control and enquired who is responsible for paying. Cllr Malcolm Wade responded that Hampshire County Council will have to pay as the contractor responsible for the initial work is no longer their contractor. The standard of work is managed and controlled by Hampshire County Council.

Cllr Peter Armstrong asked Cllr Alex Wade if he was aware that NFDC are providing work in kind to assist the Sea Scouts. Cllr Wade replied that he was.

Cllr Malcolm Wade asked if the Chairman was aware that in relation to Cllr McEvoy's report Nottinghamshire bears no relation to Hampshire and agreed that although it was not fair, they can't be compared due to their demographics.

Cllr Alex Wade asked if the Chairman was aware that treacherous weather conditions were forecast for Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. He asked what support would be given to staff who live outside the area. The Deputy Clerk said that the situation was being monitored. The plan is for staff to come in as normal on Thursday but would be sent home if weather conditions deteriorate. The Clerk informed the Council that the bookings for the Parish Hall had already been cancelled for those dates.

Cllr Mark Clark asked the Chairman is she was aware of any outstanding fees due to Hampshire in relation to Carillion. Cllr Alexis McEvoy confirmed that there were no outstanding fees.

**240/17 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

RESOLVED that

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 be agreed.

The Chairman thanked the Planning Committee for their hard work over the last few months.

**241/17 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

RESOLVED that

The Minutes of the Personnel Committee meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 be agreed.

**242/17 OPEN SPACES AND PLAY EQUIPMENT WORKING PARTY**

Members received the notes of the Open Spaces and Play Equipment Working Party meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018. Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Working Party.

RESOLVED that

- a) The Council to continue to make the open space in Jones Lane available to the community as an informal open space until such times as finances are available to develop a new skatepark.
- b) The Open Spaces and Play Equipment Working Party to invite members of the community to join the group to investigate potential funding sources to provide a new skatepark.
- c) Should partial or whole funding be realised, a feasibility study be undertaken by the working group to assess the potential of a project and present a report to Council if necessary.

**243/17 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WORKING GROUP**

Members received the notes of the Christmas Lights Working Group held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

**244/17 BATTLE'S OVER**

Members received the notes of the Battle's Over Working Group meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018. Consideration was given to the recommended actions of the Working Group.

RESOLVED that

The actions be approved and will be discussed further at the next Battle's Over Working Group meeting.

**245/17 INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

Members considered the Investment Strategy.

RESOLVED that

The Investment Strategy be adopted.

**246/17 LONG SERVICE AWARDS**

Consideration was given to the proposal to introduce a Long Service Award for Councillors who achieve 30 years service as a Parish Councillor and staff who achieve 30 years employment with the Council.

RESOLVED that

- a) The qualifying length of service or employment to be 30 cumulative years rather than 30 unbroken years.
- b) The Long Service Award to be a gift of the recipient's choice up to the value of £100 (to rise in line with RPI)

**247/17 DIRECT DEBITS**

Consideration was given to the proposed regular payments for 2018 – 2019.

RESOLVED that

The proposed regular payments for 2018 – 2019 be agreed.

**248/17 FINANCE 2017 – 2018**

Consideration was given to the bank reconciliations for January 2018 and the Schedule of Payments for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 to 31st January 2018.

RESOLVED that

- a) The bank reconciliation for January 2018 be noted.
- b) The accounts for payment as detailed totalling £49,108.41 be agreed and paid.

**249/17 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that

The press and public be excluded from the Council Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**250/17 AWARDS**

Cllr Alex Wade, Chairman of the Awards Group, gave a report on the recommendations of the working group.

RESOLVED that

- a) The Community Spirit Award for 2018 is awarded to Caz Flood
- b) The Environmental Champion Award for 2018 is awarded to Mr King and Mr Embley
- c) The deadline for nominations for the Youth Endeavour Award be extended to 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018
- d) The presentation of the Awards be deferred to April's Full Council Meeting.

**251/17 VALLEYDENE**

The Clerk to the Council gave an update to Members regarding the issues at Valleydene.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman

Date

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